

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) An application program interface (API) for controlling one or more postal security devices (PSD's), comprising:

a function for configuring COM ports of the one or more PSD's;

a function for initializing the one or more PSD's;

a function for logging in to the one or more PSD's using PIN numbers;

a function for enabling funds management; and

a function for activating or suspending indicia printing.

2. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for configuring COM ports comprises a facility for specifying a COM port and a computer name for each of the one or more PSD's.

3. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for initializing the one or more PSD's starts the internal software of the one or more PSD's.

4. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for enabling funds management allows a programmer to configure a dial up adapter for communication with a service provider infrastructure.

5. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for enabling funds management allows a programmer to configure a

network interface for communication with a service provider infrastructure.

6. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for enabling funds management allows a programmer to set an automatic download threshold.

7. (New) The API of claim 1, wherein the function for activating or suspending indicia printing displays an indicia string as an individual PSD of the one or more PSD's creates indicia.

8. (New) An application program interface (API) for one or more postal security devices (PSD's), comprising:

a control program to maintain and regulate the activities of the one or more PSD's;

a PSD agent used exclusively by the control program to service the one or more PSD's; and

an image maker routine that operates to convert indicia into an image file for printing by the one or more PSD's.

9. (New) The API of claim 8, wherein the activities controlled and maintained by the control program include indicia creation, postage download, and server configuration.

10. (New) The API of claim 8, wherein the PSD agent is not directly accessible by a developer.

11. (New) The API of claim 8, wherein the image maker routine is a dynamic link library.

12. (New) The API of claim 8, wherein the image file is a JPEG file.

13. (New) The API of claim 8, wherein the image file is a
bitmap file.